Moſt Wicked, Cruel, Bloody, and Barbarous News

FROM

Northampton:

Or a true

RELATION

How a Perſon there on Munday the 23 of *October* laſt Killed his Mother, a Woman of Fourſcore and Ten years of Age.

Induced to this Barbarous Act (as 'tis ſuppoſed) by a wicked deſire to enjoy what ſhe had, which was to come to him after her Deceaſe.

For which Fact he is now a Priſoner in *Northampton*-Goal.

With Allowance. *Roger L'Eſtrange.*

London, Printed for *Thomas Smith.* 1676.

John Moffat His Book

September

John Moffat

John Moffat

30 APR 69

BLOODY NEWS FROM Northampton:

Or,

The Barbarous Son-in-Law.

AMongſt all the Acts of Impiety, whereunto depraved Nature, ſince the Fall, is obnoxious, Murther is certainly one of the moſt heinous and abominable: To offer violence to anothers Perſon, and deſtroy (as much as lies in mans power) the Image of God in our Fellow-creature, cannot but be eſteemed a dreadful Crime, by every conſiderate Chriſtian. But what ſhall we ſay, when this is committed without any the leaſt provocation upon a perſon, whoſe Sex (one would have thought) might have priviledged her from murtherous hands, and her weakneſs proved a protection,

or at leaſt the nearneſs of her relation, might have prevented the barbarous deſigne: all which circumſtantial Aggravations meet in the Caſe before us; and yet were not able to hinder the lamentable Tragedy.

The unhappy Actor herein, living in the Town of *Northampton* (that famous Corporation, which lately ſuffered ſo lamentable a devaſtation by Fire; but now by the prudential Care of Authority, the liberal Contributions of the neighbouring Gentry, and other charitable Perſons, together with the unwearied induſtry of the Indhabitants, like to ariſe out of thoſe Aſhes to a far greater magnificence of Structure, and (we hope) of Commerce and Riches too, than ever heretofore. This Perſon ſome years ſince married the Daughter of the Woman now killed, and being a Fellow of a haſty, froward and quarrelſome diſpoſition, his Wife hath not enjoyed much happineſs with him. For he would almoſt perpetually be falling out with her Mother, who was a Woman of Fourſcore and Ten years of Age, and having ſome ſmall matter of Goods and Eſtate, which he gaped for and expected after her Deceaſe; and finding Nature had afforded her ſo large a term of Life (being ſtill of an unuſual ſtrength and vigour. 'Tis ſuppoſed and feared, that out of a covetous deſigne, to get all into his hands, he repined at the length of her days, and might by Satans inſtigation from hence contrive the black and barbarous Plot; having been often heard to mutter and grumble againſt her

her upon that occasion, as if her unexpected long Life were a great trouble and eye-sore to him.

But whether he voluntarily and with premeditation designed to anticipate her Destiny, I shall not venture to assert; since the Law (that equal arbiter of Life and Death) hath not yet given in its final Award: And therefore I shall only relate matter of Fact, leaving the Crime in mists only of a violent Suspicion, till Time shall bring Truth to light, and Justice pass a determination in the Case.

This is certain, that in *October* last past, he took a causeless occasion to fall out with the poor old Woman, his Mother in-Law, and in a very unmanly fury beat her lamentably, insomuch that she cryed out Murther upon the place; and 'tis thought if some Neighbours had not seasonably come in to her rescue and hindred him, he might there have put a period at once to her Cries and her Life: However, he had before their coming proceeded too far in his violence, having given her several Kicks on the Belly, and heavy Blows on the Breast and Belly, of which (after about Eight and Fourty Hours) languishing in a sad condition, she died.

Yet being a Woman of a strong heart and constitution, she in that space of time made shift once to creep out to a Neighbours, to whom she declared, That her Son-in-Law had often before threatned her

her, but now ſhe verily thought he had ſped (or deſtroyed) her. And accordingly took it upon her Death, that he kill'd her, before divers perſons.

Which occaſioned him to be taken into Cuſtody, and being carried before a Magiſtrate and examined, he endeavoured to excuſe himſelf, by alledging at firſt, that he did not touch or hurt her. But that being undeniably proved, as well by VVitneſſes, as the evident demonſtrations of Bruiſes, and prints of Blows upon her Body, he pretended then that he had no Malice or Ill-will againſt her; but what he did was in his paſſion; and that he was ſure he did not hurt her, ſo as to occaſion her death: but that ſhe died naturally of Age, or ſome Diſeaſe, &c.

But upon a full debate of the matter, and ſearch into Circumſtances, together with the Teſtimony of divers VVitneſſes, that appeared againſt him, it was thought fit to Commit him on Suſpicion of Murther, where he now remains, waiting for his Trial at the next Aſſizes, to which we leave him. In

In the mean time let this serve as a Caution to all that read it, to take care of giving themselves up to a Covetous Spirit of wishing the Death of their Relations, or desiring their Goods: 'Tis a Vice that has long since got footing in the World; and the most witty of the *Roman* Poets fitly ranks it amongst the most early mischievous Fruits of of the *Iron Age.*

Filius ante Diem Patrios inquirit in annos.

The thriftless Son
Inquires his

If
cour
cer
by
h

ther, whereby the infatuated Contrivers not onely lose the Coveted-Heritage, but also justly forfeit their Lives to an Ignominious Death, and (what is infinitely more valuable) their precious Souls (without sincere Repentance) to Everlasting Perdition.